

Non-availability of Anganwadi meals and benefits

544. MS. MEBEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at least 25 per cent of eligible kids, especially in the tribal areas of Central India don't get anganwadi project meals and benefits;

(b) whether Government have any special project to cover all the children, pregnant and lactating mothers with this project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering a Centrally-sponsored Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which aims at holistic development of children below 6 years of age by providing a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition and health education to the children. Pregnant women & lactating mothers are also covered under the Scheme.

Out of 6118 Projects sanctioned so far under the Scheme, 309 are in tribal areas. Currently, services are being provided to about 467.17 lakh children and about 95.00 lakh pregnant and lactating mothers through a network of about 7.48 lakh operational AWCs across the country. As per data of Census 2001, number of children in the age group of 0-6 is 16.38 crore. Of this, 10.28 crore children are registered at the Anganwadi centres. Thus the Scheme covers only 62.76% of children in this age group at present.

(b) to (d) In pursuance of Government's commitment as enunciated in the National Common Minimum Programme and in compliance of the direction of the Supreme Court in a PIL filed by the Peoples' Union for Civil Liberties, the ICDS Scheme has been expanded to cover 466 additional Projects and 1.88 lakh Anganwadi Centres in 2005-2006. Of these, 46 Projects and 3353 Anganwadi centres are in tribal areas (excluding

Anganwadi Centres sanctioned in Tribal ICDS Proejcts sanctioned upto 31.3.2005). Further expansion to increase the outreach of the Scheme to hitherto uncovered areas is also under active consideration of the Government. With these measures, toureach of the scheme would increase bringing more and more beneficiaries, including those in tribal areas, within the ambit of the scheme.

Implementation of Domestic Violence Act, 2005

545. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the protection of women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 has come into effect from October 25 this year;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that the Act is implemented effectivly in various States recruiting the manpower to fulfil the Acts' requirements and holding campaigns to create awareness among the people; and

(c) how many cases have been registered so far in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (43 of 2005) has come into force on 26th October, 2006.

(b) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has advised all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to take immediate steps as per the Act to (i) appoint Protection Officer(s) in each district and provide them with necessary infrastructure; (ii) invite applications from service providers and register them after due verification; (iii) publish the names and address with telephone numbers of the Protection Officers and the service providers prominently in newspapers and put the information on the website of the State Government; and (iv) give wide publicity to the provisions of the Act.

(c) This information is not available in the reports received so far from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.